

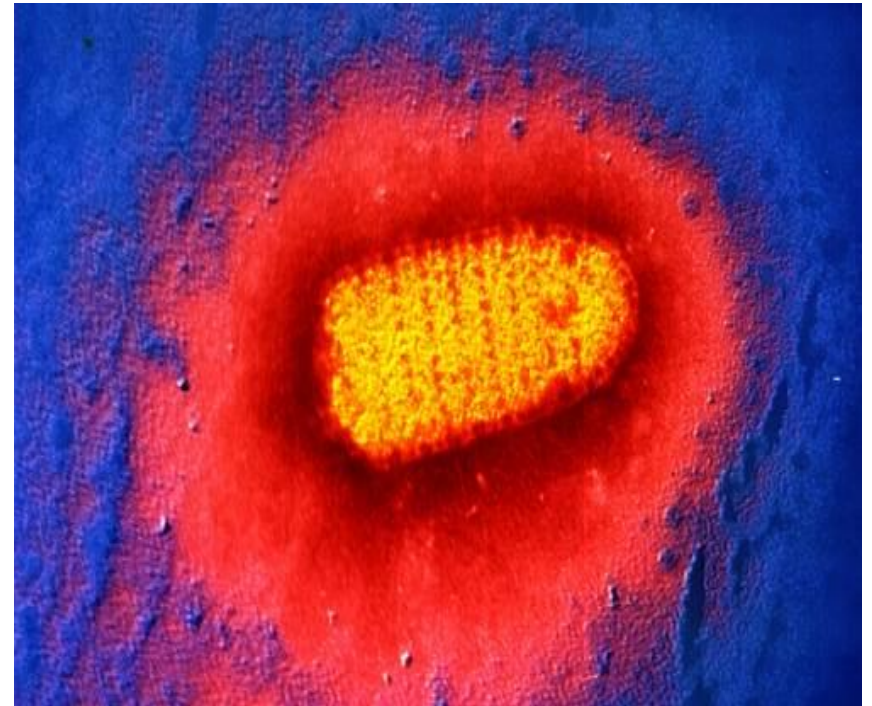
Rabies

Assembled by the McHenry County Health
Department – June 2013

Ted Paul

Rabies overview

- The Rabies virus is a disease of mammals most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal
- The rabies virus infects the central nervous system, ultimately causing disease in the brain and death
- Vaccinations and treatments are available



Is Rabies Serious?

- Yes, it is of medical urgency not emergency. Decisions should not be delayed.
- Once clinical signs of rabies appear, the disease is nearly always fatal, and treatment is typically supportive.

Signs and Symptoms of Infected Animals

- Uncharacteristic actions
(ex. Bat that is walking on the ground or flying around in a house)
- Episodes of aggression and erratic behavior
- No fear of natural enemies
(ex. Bat fearing a human)
- Seizures



Signs and Symptoms for Humans

- Weakness
- Discomfort
- Fever
- Headache
- Delirium
- Abnormal behavior
- Hallucinations
- Insomnia

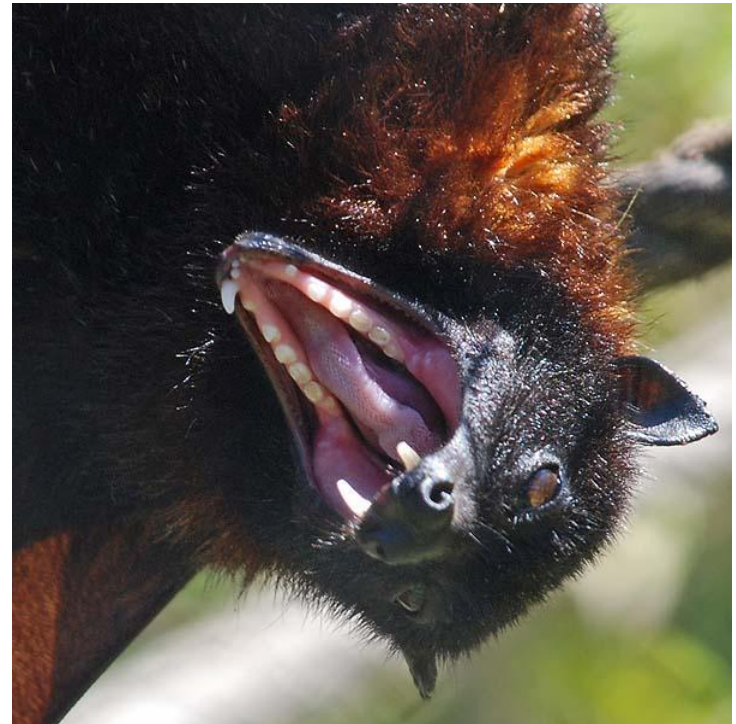


Treatments

- Once symptoms appear, the only treatment is supportive care (making someone comfortable)
- Post-exposure rabies treatment consists of a regimen of one dose of rabies immune globulin and five doses of rabies vaccine over a 14-day period

How to contract

- All species of mammals are susceptible to rabies virus, but only a few are important reservoirs for the disease
- Transmission of rabies virus usually begins when infected saliva of a host is passed to an uninfected animal



Common animals that are hosts

- Bats
- Raccoons
- Skunks
- Woodchucks
- Beavers



Not so common animals

- Squirrels
- Rats
- Mice
- Hamsters
- Guinea pigs
- Gerbils
- Chipmunks
- Rabbits
- Hares



Domesticated dogs and cats

- Domestic species accounted for less than 8% of rabies nationally, in McHenry county the prevalence is even lower than that
- It is advised to have your cat and dog vaccinated against the rabies virus



What do I do if I find a bat flying around in my house?

- If a bat is found flying around indoors but you ARE ABSOLUTELY 100% positive that you or any living thing in the house did not come into contact with the bat
 - Try not to handle the bat, open a window or a door to release it
 - If the bat will not leave, contact animal control at 815-459-6222
 - You have nothing to be concerned with health wise

What do I do if I find a bat flying around in my house?

- If you find a bat flying around your house and you are NOT ABSOLUTELY 100% that you or any living thing in the house did not come into contact with the bat then you should call animal control immediately at 815-459-6222
- You should call animal control if you find a bat and
 - You were asleep and it was in your sleeping quarters
 - You were intoxicated or inebriated
 - You have a pet that could have been exposed
 - You have a child that isn't able to tell you without a doubt that they may have been bitten or not

Who to call when to call



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